



Fragment of a Torah Scroll found in Cairo Genizah



CHRIST COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

*Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.*



*Grace in*

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**UNEXPECTED PLACES**

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# Introduction

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**BY ROBBY BAXTER**

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A new year often brings with it new resolutions. Commitments are made to various efforts of self-improvement, and we resolve to keep them no matter what. But, it seems to be a common story that just a few months into the year January's resolve is gone, and the commitments that were once confidently made have turned out only to produce a few half-hearted attempts.

This is a common story in the Bible, too. Again and again, confident resolutions are made by God's people to live totally for Him. Again and again, those resolutions are quickly left behind as the people pursue the deceitful promises of sin. Like some early American would-be revolutionaries, many saints have proved to be "summer soldiers and sunshine patriots."<sup>1</sup> We are happy to follow God so long as the road is easy and comfortable, but the moment a raincloud casts a shadow over our pilgrim way, we are tempted to call it quits.

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<sup>1</sup> This familiar phrase comes from Thomas Paine's pamphlet, *The American Crisis*, in which he urged Americans to persevere in their fight against the British during the early stages of the American War of Independence.

The Biblical remedy for our wandering hearts is to set before our eyes the gracious faithfulness of our loving Father. The more we behold God's grace to us as revealed in the Bible, the more we are encouraged and emboldened to live for Him. Not only does God by His grace redeem us from the judgment our sin deserved, by grace He also enables us to continually press on in obedience to Him, despite every obstacle.

Because of this, it is important to see that God's grace has characterized the story of redemption from the very beginning. The resolution God has made from the beginning, to save His people from their sin by His grace, He has kept and will keep to the end. This deserves our attention because it helps us to see that the Bible is a unified whole, and that God's grace is the means by which the Biblical story of redemption is brought to bear in our lives. It also helps us to persevere in faithfulness because it reveals the total trustworthiness and faithfulness of our God, whose resolve to us never falters.

With this in mind, we will begin the New Year focusing on grace in unexpected places. We will look specifically at God's grace displayed in passages from the five books of Moses — commonly called the Pentateuch or Torah. We will see from these passages that grace has characterized God's dealings with His people from the very start.

From Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy we will observe God's grace in foreshadowing and promising a Redeemer who will decisively break the bond of sin that holds His people captive and pay the penalty for their rebellion. We will observe God's grace in passing over the sin and rebellion of His people and treating them with unearned favor, looking ahead to the work of Jesus who will satisfy the righteous requirements of God's judgment against sin. We will observe God's grace in preparing the way for us to be included in this story, and in His fellowship, by using the people of Israel to bring the blessing of salvation to people of every tribe, tongue, and nation.

By the Spirit's help, we will learn that the faith of the Old Testament is the faith of the New; God's people have always been dependent upon His grace in order to enjoy His peace and fellowship. We will learn that the commandments of God in the Old Testament — so often

the object of either dread or derision – are not antithetical to the New Testament message of grace but show us how dependent we are upon God’s grace to live in a way that honors Him. We will learn that the revelation of the gospel of Jesus that is made gloriously clear in the New Testament is latent in the Old Testament, and thus, we will deepen our wonder at and love for God’s wisdom in working all things together for the good of His people across the ages.

This devotional is designed to help us dig deeper into these glorious truths and all that God has to teach our church through His Word in this sermon series and to cultivate our prayer lives. Use it for daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. You are encouraged to use it the week prior to the associated sermon so that you and your family are prepared for worship. On Wednesdays, we will pray for the church plants, missionaries, and college ministry interns that we support through Faith Promise. On Saturdays, we will pray for those we know who are in need of God’s grace. All of this should help prepare our hearts for Lord’s Day Sabbath worship on Sundays.

May the Lord use our time in personal devotions, prayer, and corporate worship to deepen our love for Him and give us a renewed awareness of our dependence upon His grace. May we value the message of the Old Testament and the way in which it prepares us to know Jesus as our Redeemer; the One who perfectly fulfills all of the promises of God spoken of by the saints of old.

*Soli Deo Gloria*

# Sermon Schedule

DATE	CALL TO WORSHIP	ASSURANCE OF PARDON	BENEDICTION	SACRAMENT
Sunday, 1/22:				
Genesis 3:1-24	Psalms 91	Hebrews 2:14-15	Genesis 12:1-3	Lord's Table
Sunday, 1/29:				
Exodus 3:1-22	Psalms 99	John 14:1-7	Exodus 15:13-18	
Sunday, 2/5:				
Leviticus 9:1-24	Psalms 118	Hebrews 3:1-6	Leviticus 26:3-13	
Sunday, 2/12:				
Numbers 21:4-9	Psalms 27	John 3:13-17	Numbers 6:24-26	Lord's Table
Sunday, 2/19:				
Deuteronomy 8:1-20	Psalms 103	Romans 10:5-13	Deuteronomy 4:29-31	

# Weekly Congregational Confession

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## THE LARGER CATECHISM

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**Q.30. Does God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?**

**A.** God does not leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery, into which they fell by the breach of the first covenant, commonly called the covenant of works; but of His mere love and mercy delivers His elect out of it, and brings them into an estate of salvation by the second covenant, commonly called the covenant of grace.



# Genesis 3:1-24

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## SUNDAY, 1/22

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**MONDAY:** *Psalms* 91: Give praise to God for serving as a refuge and fortress for you in times of trouble. Seek to share with someone else how God has served you in this way.

**TUESDAY:** *Hebrews* 2:14-15: What are some specific ways in which redemption in Christ has set you free from the slavery of sin?

**WEDNESDAY:** Pray for Jody Stancil and Riverside Community Church in Cartersville, Georgia that the Lord would provide members and leaders for His glory.

**THURSDAY:** *Genesis* 3:1-24: How has God shown you grace in the midst of your sin?

**FRIDAY:** *Genesis* 12:1-3: Meditate on how you have been blessed by God fulfilling the Abrahamic Covenant in your various spheres of influence.

**SATURDAY:** Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Table. Give thanks for God's grace displayed in the broken bread and offered cup.

**SUNDAY:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath with the Lord's Table:* Pray for the means of grace to bear fruit in our lives.

# Exodus 3:1-22

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## SUNDAY, 1/29

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**MONDAY:** *Psalms* 99: Meditate on why you should exalt the Lord and worship Him.

**TUESDAY:** *John* 14:1-7: What are some ways in which Jesus has been “the way, the truth, and the life” for you?

**WEDNESDAY:** Pray for Chris Foglesong and Mountain City Church in Jasper, Georgia to see the fruit of salvation from their ministry.

**THURSDAY:** *Exodus* 3:1-22: Reflect on the times that God has been present with you in difficult circumstances. Seek to share one of these times with someone else.

**FRIDAY:** *Exodus* 15:13-18: What are some ways that God’s eternal reign blesses you?

**SATURDAY:** Pray for someone you know that is struggling under the weight of guilt and shame because of their sin asking God to reveal His forgiving grace and presence to them.

**SUNDAY:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant you the eyes to see and the ears to hear His words to you in worship.

# Leviticus 9:1-24

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## SUNDAY, 2/5

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**MONDAY:** *Psalms 118:* Consider how the Lord has been your strength and your song in becoming your salvation. Share this with someone as the Spirit leads.

**TUESDAY:** *Hebrews 3:1-6:* What helps you to hold fast your confidence and boast in Christ as your hope?

**WEDNESDAY:** Pray for the Stocks in Southeast Asia and the Mills in Thailand to train up disciples who make disciples for the glory of God's kingdom.

**THURSDAY:** *Leviticus 9:1-24:* What has the Lord restored you to by His grace despite your sin?

**FRIDAY:** *Leviticus 26:3-13:* How has the Lord blessed your obedience to Him?

**SATURDAY:** Pray for someone you know that has suffered loss as a result of their sin asking God to restore them through repentance by His grace.

**SUNDAY:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant you the eyes to see and the ears to hear His words to you in worship.

# Numbers 21:4-9

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## SUNDAY, 2/12

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**MONDAY:** *Psalms 27:* What fears has God delivered you from?

**TUESDAY:** *John 3:13-17:* Give thanks for God's gracious provision of His Son because of His love. Seek to share this redeeming love with someone this week.

**WEDNESDAY:** Pray for the Robertsons in Chile and the Larsens with MTW's Next to equip leaders to do the work of the ministry in the various places where God has called them.

**THURSDAY:** *Numbers 21:4-9:* How does this passage point forward to God's grace displayed in Christ?

**FRIDAY:** *Numbers 6:24-26:* Meditate on how the Lord has blessed you, kept you, been gracious to you, and given you peace in Christ.

**SATURDAY:** Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Table. Give thanks for God's grace displayed in the broken bread and offered cup.

**SUNDAY:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath with the Lord's Table:* Pray for the means of grace to bear fruit in our lives.

# Deuteronomy 8:1-20

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## SUNDAY, 2/19

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**MONDAY:** *Psalms* 103: What are some ways in which you bless the Lord?

**TUESDAY:** *Romans* 10:5-13: What is your confession of faith? Pray for the Spirit to provide you with an opportunity to share this with someone this week.

**WEDNESDAY:** Pray for Karrah Oliver (RUF at KSU), Zach Wagoner (CO at KSU), Phillip Mason (RUF at North Texas), and Joehann Guadalupe (CO at Dalton State) to see the Gospel grow in the lives of the students that they minister to.

**THURSDAY:** *Deuteronomy* 8:1-20: What are some ways that you are taking care so as not to forget the Lord Your God?

**FRIDAY:** *Deuteronomy* 4:29-31: Praise God for having never left you or destroyed you or forgotten His covenant of grace despite your sin.

**SATURDAY:** Pray for someone you know that is in a season of being humbled and tested by God. Pray for their faith to hold fast in union with Christ.

**SUNDAY:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant you the eyes to see and the ears to hear His words to you in worship.

